

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating between components of a home subsystem comprising a home library for receiving and storing electronic books, the electronic books comprising data text and a unique key associated therewith, and a portable, electronic viewer for processing and displaying the electronic books, said portable viewer having a unique key associated therewith, the method comprising:

in the library, comparing ~~[[a]]~~ the unique key associated with data text of an electronic book to the ~~a corresponding~~ unique key identifying the electronic ~~[[of the]]~~ viewer;

if the comparing step produces a match, sending the data text related to an electronic book from the library to the viewer; and
storing the data text in the viewer.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising encrypting the data text.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising preventing the electronic viewer from outputting decrypted data text.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

displaying the data text on a display portion of the electronic viewer; and

decrypting the data text as the data text is displayed.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, farther comprising compressing the data text.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising preventing the electronic viewer from outputting decompressed data text.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

displaying the data text on a display portion of the electronic viewer; and

decompressing the data text as the data text is displayed.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the data text is encrypted and compressed when it is received by the electronic viewer, and further comprising decompressing and decrypting a portion of the data text.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising encrypting and compressing the data text before it is sent to the electronic viewer, and further comprising decompressing and decrypting the data text one page at a time, as a current page is displayed on the electronic viewer.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic viewer has a unique key for decrypting the data text, whereby only one electronic viewer can access a particular transmission of data text.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data text is transmitted as a digital bit stream.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the data text is transmitted from a remote cable headend to the library and bundled into a data file, which data file is sent to the electronic viewer.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for processing text data for an electronic book in an electronic book home system comprising a library and viewer, the method, comprising:

communicating the purchase of an electronic book;

attaching a unique packet identifier that matches a library identifier associated with the purchaser's library to a packet of text data;

after the unique packet identifier is attached, receiving a packet of text data at the library;

determining, at the library, whether the packet has a unique packet identifier; and

if the packet has a unique packet identifier, determining whether the packet identifier matches the library identifier of the library; and

if the packet identifier matches the library identifier, storing the packet to a data file in a library storage.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the packet is transmitted as a digital bit stream from a remote cable headend to the library.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising, if the packet does not have a unique packet identifier, storing the packet to an electronic message file.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of storing comprises:

determining whether the data file has been opened, and

if the data file has been not been opened,

opening the data file; and

storing the packet to the data file.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

determining whether the packet is a final packet received for an electronic book,
and

if the packet is the final packet,

closing the data file; and

updating a directory.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising sending the data file
to a viewer.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising encrypting and
compressing the data file.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for processing data text for electronic
books in a home system comprising a library and a viewer, the method, comprising

sending a packet of data text, inserted in a video signal, from a remote
operations center to the library;

encrypting and compressing the packet;

sending the packet to a viewer communicatively coupled to the library;

storing the packet in a viewer storage;

decompressing and decrypting the packet, comprising decompressing and decrypting an electronic book page by page, just before a page is displayed on a display of the viewer; and

displaying the data text on the display of the viewer.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising storing the packet to a data file in the library, which data file is capable of storing a plurality of packets related to an electronic book.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of encrypting and compressing the packet comprises encrypting and compressing the data file, and wherein the step of sending the packet to the viewer comprises sending the data file to the viewer.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the data packet. is sent in a bit stream having a packet identifier, and further comprising comparing a packet identifier with a library identifier, and wherein the step of sending the packet to the library comprises sending the packet to the library if the packet identifier matches the library identifier.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24; wherein the step of decompressing and decrypting the data file comprises using a security key unique to the viewer.

26. (Canceled)